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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 001872

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#) [NP](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: HOME MINISTER UPBEAT ON KASHMIR, WORRIES OF POTENTIAL MAOIST SPILLOVER FROM NEPAL

REF: NEW DELHI 1274

Classified By: Ambassador David C. Mulford for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

1. (C) Summary: In a March 9 meeting with the Ambassador, Home Minister Shivraj Patil credited Pakistan with reducing infiltration, called The GOI had told President Musharraf that he would be welcome to visit India during the ongoing cricket series. Patil downplayed the effects Kashmir

2. (C) In a discussion that focused primarily on trafficking in persons (septel), the Ambassador told the Home Minister that he expected Se

3. (C) The problem with the terrorists was not their guns, Patil continued, but their grenades and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), as

4. (C) Patil expected the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus to roll on schedule on April 7, despite harsh winter weather that had hampered infrastr Nepal/Naxalite Nexus

5. (C) Turning to the crisis in Nepal, the Ambassador noted that the US and India remain very close in their views and are consulting regul

6. (C) Responding to a question about the impact of the Maoist insurgency in Nepal on India's internal security, Patil observed that insurg Ordinary Nepalis were keeping quiet or saying things acceptable to the Maoists, but they did not back the insurgents. Patil agreed that the

7. (C) The situation was very complicated, Patil continued, and India was finding that when it attempted to be of assistance in one area, c Whatever spillover there was into India, however, remained in small amounts, and was proceeding at a snail's pace. Patil professed not to know whether this was the "lull before the storm" or that the status quo would continue. The situation in Bhutan an Given his responsibilities for internal security, however, he remained concerned about the internal threat of leftist violence inside India ( MULFORD